

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 1, 15, and 21, which are the only independent claims, have been amended

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-9, 15-17, 21, and 26-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sharpe (UK Patent GB 2,099,198) (“Sharpe”).

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 10-12, 18, 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharpe as applied to the claims above in view of Gabrius *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,113,990) (“Gabrius”).

Claims 13-14, 19-20, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharpe as applied to claims 1-12, 15-30 above, and further in view of DeMar *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,270,410) (“DeMar”).

Personal Interview and Interview Summary

The Applicants note with appreciation the interview with Examiner Pandya and Examiner Pezzuto on April 25, 2007. Pursuant to the discussions in the interview, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 15, and 21 to clarify the invention.

The Applicants agree with the Interview Summary Sheet provided at the end of the interview in which the Examiners acknowledged the proposed claims distinguish over Sharpe and the other art of record.

Independent Claim 1

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the player accrues winning outcomes that are not displayed. Then, “after the current play is concluded and the player of the wagering game is allowed to place another wager to play another play subsequent to the current

play,” the player has an option to redeem the accrued winning outcome. If he or she does so, then a winning symbol combination for the winning outcome is displayed and the player is awarded a value payout associated with the winning symbol combination.

Sharpe does not disclose, mention, or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. During the interview on April 26, 2007, the Examiners acknowledged the fact that amended claim 1 distinguishes over Sharpe and the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants believe claims 1-14 are allowable.

Independent Claim 15

Independent claim 15 has been amended to clarify that when the player accrues a winning outcome meeting predetermined criterion, a number on the counter display is incremented and is viewable by the player. Thus, he or she knows that an additional winning outcome has been accrued. This counter display (shown, for example, at reference numeral 431 in the illustrated embodiment of FIGS. 8-13) allows the player to keep track of the number of winning outcomes that can be redeemed. As mentioned later in claim 15, in response to the option being exercised by the player, a winning symbol combination is displayed and the number on the counter display is decremented, again helping the player to keep track of the number of accrued winning outcomes.

During the interview on April 26, 2007, the Examiners acknowledged the fact that amended claim 15 distinguishes over Sharpe and the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants believe claims 15-20 are allowable.

Independent Claim 21

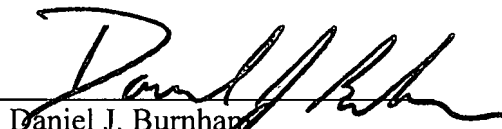
Independent claim 21 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1. Sharpe fails to teach the accrual of winning outcomes that the player can, at his or her option, later redeem. Accordingly, Applicants believe claims 21-30 are allowable.

Conclusion

It is believed that no fee is presently due. However, should any additional fees be required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees (except for payment of the issue fee) from Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-4181, Order No. 247079-00214USPT.

Respectfully submitted,

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